

## SCRIP Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2020

A SCRIP meeting was held after a thunderstorm rolled through on July 16, 2020 at Greenhouse Park in Johnstown. The meeting was attended by SCRIP Board Members Tom Clark, Len Lichvar, Joe Gordon, John Dryzal, Pam Milavec, Melissa Reckner, and Larry Hutchinson. Board members Adam Cotchen, Karlice Makuchan, and James Eckenrode, Jr. joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was also attended by Phil Wilson of PACD, William Brogan of DEP, Carol Shaffer of MLTU, Greg Shustrick of Somerset Conservation District, and Aaron Capouellez, a student at UPJ.

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 PM and introductions were made.

Hutchinson/Gordon made a **motion** to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Stonycreek River Progress Report

#### *Oven Run*

Shustrick said construction is 50% done on Site F, and Hawk View will be done in the coming weeks. August 3 is the work deadline and is when the systems should be turned on. The designs for Sites A&D are done and are out for review by PACD.

#### *Lamberts Run*

Shustrick replied to an email inquiry SCRIP received from a landowner of Lamberts Run Falls, and the gentleman was pleased with the response.

#### *Wells Creek Discharges*

There has not been a report from DEP yet. **ACTION ITEM (Clark):** Inquire with DEP as to the status of this report.

#### *Fallen Timber Run Discharge*

Lichvar said Hooversville residents make frequent inquiries about it. DEP's Luke Jensen is the contact and believes DEP knows from where it is coming. While it's aesthetically unpleasing, it's not really killing the Stonycreek. Of course, new discharges are undesirable, and their cumulative impact could harm receiving waters. Lichvar said Hooversville Borough gave permission to InnoH2O Solutions to sample it.

#### *Benscreek*

Shustrick said the District and PennDOT are completing some mitigation work along Benscreek. More work will be completed next year. The District must do five years of monitoring on each project segment, and the first one was done in 2017.

### ***Quemahoning Creek***

Shustrick said the District received a TAG grant from TU to do a Que Creek AMD inventory/analysis to determine best future treatment. SFU did a mass balance to determine from where the most loading was coming, which provided some focus. Cotchen pointed out that since the Stony has a QHUP, it's eligible for set aside funds now. Eckenrode and Shustrick are pretty sure didymo is in the outflow of Que. Clark said its in Pine Creek. We need to increase awareness to limit its spread. **ACTION ITEM (All):** Consider sharing information about didymo and proper gear treatment in outreach materials. Add signage at Que?

### ***Stonycreek Riparian Buffers***

SCD is working to implement riparian buffers in the upper reaches of the Stonycreek; however, they are having difficulties finding cooperative landowners, even though there would be no cost to them. They might be able to piggyback with NRCS, which has some contacts, but Covid has NRCS on lockdown. **ACTION ITEM (All):** If you know of any cooperative landowners in this area, contact the District.

### ***Soap Hollow Run***

Lichvar reported that the District, MLTU, and others have invested thousands of dollars to improve Soap Hollow Run, a Class A Wild Brown Trout water that flows through Greenhouse Park, and, on July 2, 2020, saw a pollution incident in it. A pipe at an upstream AMD treatment system, operated by a private company – Glenn Springs Holdings, burst and sent at least 18,000 gallons of sludge into the stream. The sludge was a foot thick in some pools. Shustrick explained the saga and partial remediation. DEP's Matt Riley said the water released was not acidic and since the company reported the spill, DEP is not issuing any penalties. The District requested the system's inspection report and is still waiting to receive it. Shustrick added that Gary Smith of PFBC said PFBC would complete a fish survey after it was cleaned up and the District would collect macroinvertebrates. DEP did issue a consent order for the company to add some form of secondary containment, so this won't happen again. Brogan said fines usually come after the problem is resolved. **ACTION ITEM (Clark, Lichvar):** Request inspection report and stay abreast of monitoring needs/timeline.

### ***Stonycreek River Trust Fund***

Lichvar said the District needs a long-term trust fund for the four Oven Run treatment systems they are mandated to maintain. The Somerset County Commissioners said they will donate \$25K to that trust fund, which has about \$1,700 from Chad Gontkovic's online fundraiser. Lichvar said the District is looking at investment options. **ACTION ITEM (Clark):** Find out where SRBC invested recent funds that yielded a nice return.

### ***Rock Tunnel***

Shustrick gave some background on the Rock Tunnel AMD system and said some sludge needs removed from it. GapVax quoted \$1700 / day to do this. A nearby farmer has taken some sludge to mix with manure to lock up phosphorus, and Shustrick will inquire about this again. Clark suggested speaking with Bob Hedin about using the material, too. Rock Tunnel was SCRIP's first project decades ago. The District asked SCRIP for a \$800 donation towards the de-sludging. After getting an account of our finances from Eckenrode, Gorden/Reckner made a **motion** to donate \$800 to the District to help pay for one day of de-sludging at the Rock Tunnel

treatment system. A discussion followed and Gorden/Reckner **withdrew** their motion. Reckner/Dryzal made a new **motion** that the District first reach out to WPCAMR and SRI to see if they have funds available through their quick response programs. If not, then SCRIP will donate \$800 towards this project. All in favor. Motion carried. **ACTION ITEM (Brogan):** Brogan said he'll ask WPCAMR if this work would be eligible for Quick Response funds.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Eckenrode said, as of April, SCRIP has \$2,366.39 in its checking; \$6,660.68 in its PA Invest; and \$10,514.54 at the Community Foundation. A brief discussion about SCRIP's finances followed.

### **Paint Creek Progress Report**

#### ***Babcock Creek***

Clark said he has spoken with the guys at Gallitzin State Forest and wants to add limestone sand and Mineral CSA to Babcock Creek as pre-treatment to the Red Eyes discharge.

#### ***Mine 37 Refuse Pile***

Clark said RES has the permit, which includes the Mine 40 pile, but it's on the 5-year plan. He said we need to consider the market and legislation. We might need to find transportation funds to help remove the pile. **ACTION ITEM (Clark):** Check to see if the co-gen plant would burn it now, if the refuse got there now.

### **Shade Creek Progress Report**

#### ***Proposed Active Treatment Plant***

Clark said Corsa Coal got a cease-and-desist order to stop putting sludge into the Reitz #4 mine pool, but we heard that they are still putting the sludge into the mine pool, while they dispute DEP's order. How long do they have to dispute this? EMAP water quality data shows high iron yet. DEP's Sam Faith said he couldn't be at the meeting today, because they can't travel. A discussion followed. **ACTION ITEM (Clark, Reckner):** On behalf of SCRIP, send a letter to Faith, copying his boss, requesting an update. Clark and Reckner will share the draft letter with some board members before it is sent. **ACTION ITEM (Clark, Eckenrode):** Collect a water sample from the #4 discharge.

#### ***Clear Shade Creek Limestone Sanding***

Cotchen said WPC secured a \$8K Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant to add alkalinity to Mile Run, Cub Run, and Piney Run. He said initial macros were collected in April. Electrofishing is slated for July 23-24.

#### ***Panther Run & Shingle Run Limestone Sanding***

Hutchinson said SCWA is going to try and push lime into Panther and Shingle Runs.

### ***Cottagetown Wetland***

Eckenrode reported that there is water flowing through Cottagetown.

### ***SGL228 Project***

Wilson said the design of the 228 project was just finished today.

### ***Shingle Run ALD***

Hutchinson said the Shingle Run ALD intake has been improved. SFU surveyed 6 sites for macroinvertebrates.

## **Little Conemaugh River Progress Report**

### ***Active Treatment Plant***

Clark reported that FPW said two new properties were evaluated and appraised and that FPW will purchase them. Dryzal said the active treatment plant was to treat the Hughes, Sonman, and Miller Shaft discharges, but a geotechnical complication will require additional testing to ensure Miller Shaft can go over to the plant. The plant will be designed to accommodate it.

### ***Erhenfeld Coal Refuse Pile / Reforestation***

Clark said reforestation included some chestnuts with marginal success. There is signage along the trail. The Ehrenfeld project essentially done.

### ***Stineman Refuse Pile***

Dryzal said interpretative signage and memorial benches were placed. Dryzal said this project is about 82% done.

### ***Saltlick Passive Treatment System Rehab***

Dryzal said this system not working at all, so the discharge was redirected around reservoir, like it used to be. Clark said Saltlick falls under the list of pilot projects DEP wants to fund.

**ACTION ITEM (Clark):** Clark to share a link to this website that lists projects. Edit: Here's the link:

[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Mining/Abandoned%20Mine%20Reclamation/AbandonedMinePortalFiles/AMLProgramInformation/PilotProject/PA\\_2018\\_AML\\_Pilot\\_Program\\_10-30-2019.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Mining/Abandoned%20Mine%20Reclamation/AbandonedMinePortalFiles/AMLProgramInformation/PilotProject/PA_2018_AML_Pilot_Program_10-30-2019.pdf)

### ***Gallitzin State Forest Reforestation***

Clark said this 40-acre project was delayed because of Covid-19 and the lack of available trees, but will continue in 2021.

### ***Laurel Run Streambank Stabilization***

Dryzal said the District did submit a Growing Greener grant application to do some streambank stabilization along Laurel Run. Just waiting to hear.

### ***Puritan Treatment System***

Dryzal said work on the Puritan system near Martindale is completed. Those who maintain it will have more control over its flow, so they'll play around with it. Dryzal said they secured drone footage of the area and discussed refuse piles in the area.

## **Partner Organizations**

### ***Center for Watershed Research and Service***

Eckenrode said he's helping with the DEP Snapshot. Has some sondes deployed in Que Creek and that a mass balance on that stream should be completed soon. He said TetraTech and SFU submitted a large grant request to look at treatment options for the Incline Plane discharge and come up with 20% of a design for it. They are looking to possibly have an active system down by the wire mill.

### ***Cambria Somerset Authority***

Lichvar said 48 habitat structures were placed in the Que in May. Dryzal said the Fish and Boat Commission did some habitat work at Wilmore.

## **Public Relations Reports**

### ***Education Committee***

Makuchan said the next newsletter deadline is Friday, September 4. Send news to her at [karlice@atlanticbb.net](mailto:karlice@atlanticbb.net). Reckner thanked Makuchan, Hutchinson, and Linda Yunke for staffing SCRIP's display and activity at NatureWorks. A record 514 people participated in this event.

### ***Fundraising/Event Committee***

Gorden noted that there is no education event this summer because of Covid.

### ***Website***

Clark noted that the website needs some updates. **ACTION ITEM (Clark, Reckner):** Prepare a list of updates to submit to SCRIP's webmaster.

### ***Twitter***

Clark said SCRIP has a new Twitter account: @SCRIPRivers.

## **Old Business**

### ***Stonycreek "dredging" Project***

Reckner read an email from Andrea Carson with the Army Corps of Engineers that said Covid-19 had delayed work on the Stonycreek fill removal project, but that prep work is now proceeding.

### ***Oven Run Site B***

Lichvar said DEP told him that Site B will be rehabbed and reconstructed in some form that could start as early of August 2020. SRI did the design.

## **New Business**

### ***Guests***

Capouellez said his interest is in frog and toads and that he hopes to pursue a masters degree at IUP. He is volunteering with PARS – the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey, which seeks to determine what lives where across the Commonwealth. Capouellez said no one has focused on this section of the Stonycreek, so he is and hopes to find interesting and special species to possibly afford the Stony more protection. He has a You Tube channel - PA Woods and Forests - with educational videos. PARS has two more years to collect data. Reckner said the PARS site is cool and encouraged everyone to upload their herp sightings: <https://www.paherpsurvey.org/>. **ACTION ITEM (All):** Share unique habitats or herp sightings with Capouellez at [aaron\\_capouellez@yahoo.com](mailto:aaron_capouellez@yahoo.com).

Brogan said NRCS has sourcewater protection grants that require a 1:1 match available. Brogan, who is with the Waterways and Wetlands division, said SCRIP seems like a good organization with a multitude of projects and interests. Let him know how he can help. Dryzal said we're glad to have him here.

### ***DCNR***

Reckner said the Bureau of Forestry is updating its strategic plan and welcomes input via this survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOFplan>. Surveys need completed by August 31, 2020.

### ***South Fork Little Conemaugh***

Dryzal said the District just updated their strategic plan and noted that they need to start focusing attention, particularly DEP's, on the South Fork Little Conemaugh to get information on record especially with expected turnover. **ACTION ITEM (Clark, Dryzal):** Inquire about the status of getting the Sulfur Run Borehole into the Rosebud AMD treatment system.

## **Next Meeting**

September 17 at 3 PM at Greenhouse Park.

Adjourn 5:30 PM

Minutes by Reckner.